

modification to the preamble need be made. Should the Examiner disagree, it is respectfully requested that he call undersigned counsel such that appropriate language can be determined forthwith.

In terms of claim 19, the Examiner notes that the preamble indicates a system. Yet, it is respectfully submitted that the claim is system-specific, rather than a method claim, in that it contains a structure -- a volatility contract -- created under paragraph (a) with a settlement price under paragraph (e). Inasmuch as a contract is a structure, it is respectfully submitted that this is properly cast as a system claim, rather than a method claim. However, as before, should the Examiner disagree, it is respectfully requested that he call undersigned counsel such that appropriate language can be determined forthwith.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner wish any further information, it is respectfully requested that undersigned counsel be contacted. The Examiner is thanked, in advance, for expediting issuance of this fairly old case as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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